

Peggy Pickens and her husband Al have five children and twelve grandchildren, each of whom have continued their legacy of service to Christ, their families, our nation, and their communities. She will be greatly missed, yet the seeds that she has sown throughout her tenure at NCA will continue to bear great fruit in the lives of the future graduates of Northeast Christian Academy.

As the husband and father of school teachers, I know that educators, like Peggy, are the backbone of our communities.

Thanks for the work you've done Peggy, best of luck in newest chapter of your life.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCA—ASIAN
PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES,
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sacramento Chapter and the distinguished leaders who are being honored at their 2015 Dragon Boat Festival and 20th anniversary gala. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring OCA Sacramento and these fine Sacramentans.

Dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Islander Americans, OCA's Sacramento chapter is an active advocate for all Asian Pacific Islander Americans and works diligently to develop strong leadership, community involvement and civic participation. OCA Sacramento also fosters cultural heritage by hosting a variety of annual events celebrating traditional Chinese holidays and festivals, such as the Dragon Boat Festival. The events bring together the Asian Pacific Islander American community, while also educating and sharing its heritage with our entire community. OCA Sacramento promotes education and leadership for young people by offering essay contests and scholarships, as well as internship opportunities. It is clear to me and so many others that OCA Sacramento's deep involvement and commitment to improving Sacramento is exemplary.

In keeping with their theme of "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future," being recognized at this year's Dragon Boat Festival are past Chapter Presidents Dwanchen Hsu, Tom Bhe, Ph.D., Felix Chen, Ph.D., RungFong Hsu, Sam Ong, Linda Ng, Joyce Eng, Michael Head, and David Low. These community leaders have all dedicated their lives to improving Sacramento through their work with OCA Sacramento. All that has been accomplished by the organization would not be possible without these individuals at the forefront of their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of OCA—Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sacramento Chapter gather at the Dragon Boat Festival to celebrate their 20th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their unwavering commitment to the Sacramento region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on May 12, 2015, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on #216. I would have voted "NAY" on #217 and 218. I would have voted "YEA" on #219 and 220.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
HONORABLE BRUCE REYNOLDS
ALGER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of an outstanding citizen and public servant, my former congressman, Bruce Reynolds Alger. He recently passed away in Palm Bay, Florida at the age of 96.

The Honorable Bruce Alger served the 5th District of Texas in the House of Representatives from 1955 to 1965. Congressman Alger served in a very significant time in Texas history with President Lyndon B. Johnson and Speaker Samuel T. Rayburn, both of the Lone Star State, leading the country during his tenure. He was a pioneer of his time by being the only Republican Congressman in the Texas delegation for eight years. It wasn't until his final term in Congress that he could hold a Republican meeting of Texas Representatives with more than just himself. Congressman Ed Foreman from Odessa, Texas was elected in 1963 to double the size of the Texas GOP delegation.

Congressman Alger was one of the earliest Republican members of the Texas Delegation in the mid-20th Century and the first Republican Representative from Dallas County. He fought and spoke for limited government, balanced budget, flat income tax, and many other ideals that became the basis for conservative principles for years to come. He was the eleventh Texan to be appointed to the Ways and Means committee, which I sit upon today.

Prior to being elected to Congress, he was also a distinguished veteran. Like many of the greatest generation, he answered the call to service. He served during World War II in the United States Army from 1941–1945. As a pilot, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and attained the rank of Captain. He devoted much of his life to public service and did what he could to better our country. Congressman Alger's endless energy benefited so many who he served.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the life of the Honorable Bruce Reynolds Alger. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating our former House colleague's remarkable life and service in Congress and to our country.

HONORING MIKE WOLF, NAPA
VALLEY GROWER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mike Wolf upon being named the Napa Valley 2015 Grower of the Year.

For more than 35 years, Mr. Wolf has been involved with developing and managing California vineyards. Michael Wolf Vineyard Services was founded in 1997, and oversees all phases of the vineyard development process for many of Napa Valley's leading independent growers, and premium and ultra-premium wineries. Mr. Wolf currently farms over 800 acres across Napa County.

Throughout his career, Mr. Wolf has been committed to innovation and the advancement of viticultural best practices in the Napa Valley. Never afraid of new ideas, he has researched and applied new technologies to continually improve the quality of the grapes that he grows. Also widely respected for his humble leadership, Mr. Wolf has graciously contributed his approach to farming and extensive experience in viticulture to the mentorship of the next generation of Napa Valley's grape-growers.

Mr. Wolf has been a consistent and committed benefactor to his community through his patronage and support of innumerable causes and events in Napa County from the annual NVG Pruning Contest, Harvest STOMP, and the Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation to his ongoing sponsorship for the County Crop Report. As part of his contributions to the Napa Valley grape-growing community, he has served in a number of posts including Board Trustee of the California Grower Foundation since 1987, a member of the Napa Valley Viticultural Technical Group's Executive Committee, and as a professional member of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Mike Wolf for his professional and philanthropic contributions to Napa Valley. He is an invaluable asset to our district and the grape-growing community of California.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,446,693,102.28. We've added \$7,525,569,644,189.20 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.